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A

LETTER

FROM A

Noble-Man Abroad,

TO HIS

Friend in *ENGLAND.*

LONDON,
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A

LETTER.

Dear SIR,

AT this critical Conjuncture when the Rumour of a new Parliament sounds like the last Trumpet, to awaken the Genius of Old *England*, and raise departed Liberty to Life, it would be a Crime to be silent.

My Retreat into this Country, which was meant only to be out of the way of beholding the Calamities of my own, and of hearing the Cries and Lamentations of my Fellow Citizens, to which I could neither see nor bring any Remedy, may expose me to the Reproach of having abandon'd my Friends in their Distress, if I should remain indolent when the least Glimmering of Redemption appeared.

In those Times of Distraction, so like our own, when the will of a Triumvirate, supported by a Majority of bribed Senators, and

nd an Army at Command was the ſole
aw; when *Cato* and *Cicero* were in Dan-
er of being torn to Pieces in the Streets;
hen to be honeſt was to be proſcribed;
hat Courſe could good Men take over-
our'd by Numbers, and deſpairing of the
ommon-wealth, but to retire to *Athens*, or
me remote Corner to lament in Silence,
nd to ſeek for Comfort in the Study of
hiloſophy, 'till the Madneſs was over,
nd a more auſpicious Seaſon invited to a
eliverance by a new Struggle?

We have lived to ſee our antient Conſti-
ution in a manner diſſolved, and the moſt
mportant Articles of our new Contract, u-
on ſettling the Proteſtant Succeſſion, E-
aded, Suſpended, or ſet aſide; the Wealth
nd Strength of the Kingdom exhauſted in
oreign Quarrels, and for Foreign Acqui-
itions; the very Nation it ſelf Sold to make
urchaſes abroad and to enrich Strangers.

We have lived to ſee the firſt Honours
f Peerage beſtowed to dignifie Proſtituti-
n, the Freedom of the People, the moſt
ineſtimable Article of their Freedom, the
reedom of Elections, betrayed by their
wn Repreſentatives, ſo that the moſt pre-
ious Part of our Liberty may be juſtly
aid to have been ſtabbed by its own Guard.

We

We have lived, to see more Persons illegally seiz'd, whipt, fined, imprison'd, impeach'd, attainted and executed, within the Compass of One Year, than our Histories can shew us in Two Hundred before.

We have lived, and we yet live to be trampled upon, by the vilest, the most ignominious of all Tyranny, the Tyranny of Ministers, the Tyranny of Fellow Subjects, raised from the Dirt of Faction, supported by Senates, chosen and directed by Corruption.

We were contented to forget the past Injuries, when we heard from the Throne, that Peace and Tranquility were settled in *Europe*; that all Fears of Foreign Invasions were over, and we were quietly established at home, when we were graciously advised to be intent upon recovering our Losses, and to imploy our utmost Industry and Diligence in retrieving Commerce and restoring Trade.

This pleasing Scene gave us new Life, and we began to rejoice in the Prospect of future Felicity, when another Voice was heard from the Ministry; and because in Times of Tranquility, standing Armies might be thought a Grievance, a new kind

kind of War was contrived, a Plague was denounced, Forces were decreed to be kept on Foot to defend us from the Almighy, and to reſiſt the very Hand of GOD. Impious and Execrable! when our Perſons were become free from the Suſpicion of Treaſon, a Law was made to make us liable to the Suſpicion of Infection, that when our Goals are empty, our Peſt-Houſes may be filled at their Pleaſure.

Upon this amazing Reſolution, we ſaw the City of *London*, the Metropolis of *England*, the moſt famous, and once the moſt flouriſhing City in the Univerſe, like a weeping Matron, appearing at that Bar, which is called the *Dernier* Reſort of Juſtice and Equity; we ſaw her waiting with all Duty and all Humility, imploring only to be heard, but ſent imperiouſly away in Deſpair, with Minaces inſtead of Redreſſes.

For ever bleſſed be thoſe Glorious Names which ſtand upon Record, proteſting againſt ſo inſolent an Adminiſtration! What are we then to expect from ſuch a Set of raſh and daring Politicians, as openly bid Defiance to GOD and Man? Is there the leaſt Hopes remaining, but in the Union of honeſt Men, true Lovers of their Country; who, have

have Virtue enough to ſacrifice all private Conſiderations to the Publick Good?

By the Artifice of cunning and deſigning Men, who have been too long kept divided in Parties, and exaſperated againſt one another without Senſe or Reaſon, only to help them to climb, and be a Ladder for ambitious Knaves.

It is high Time for all thoſe who have the ſame Bowels for their Country, to join Hearts and Hands in its Deliverance, to forget and forgive paſt Diviſions, to ſeek to redreſs Wrongs, not to revenge them, and to ſacrifice every other Paſſion to the general Welfare.

Let then no other Denomination be heard among us, no other Diſtinction but that of good *Brittons*; let all who would merit that Name, unite, embrace, and take a *Roman* Reſolution to ſave their Country, or periſh with it.

Brutus was a ſworn Enemy to *Pompey*, the Murderer of his Father; but when it happened that *Rome* muſt periſh, or *Pompey* be ſupported, *Brutus* became *Pompey*'s Friend.

Brutus took an Oath to *Cæſar*, but *Brutus* never ſwore to be an Enemy to his Country.

Brutus

Brutus owed much to *Cæsar*, but *Brutus* thought private Benefits as well as private Injuries, were to be sacrificed to the Publick Safety. And *Brutus* was an honourable Man.

The Interest of the State is the First Object of Men of Honour; Piety and Loyalty are included in it; to be false to one's Country is to be false to God and the King.

If then we neglect the approaching Opportunity upon the next Election, we betray all the Ties of Nature, Religion and Allegiance; if we lose it we are lost with it. If a Majority of such Men should again prevail, Farewel to all that is dear to the Lovers of Liberty and *Britain*.

That Authority which (we know from the general Sense of the Nation) can be continued in the same Hands, by no other Means but Violence and Corruption; must be maintained as it is got.

You Sir, are but just arrived at the Age of entring upon the publick Stage; and you arrive at it in this critical Moment, when all is at Stake. It is therefore, I have singled You out from the Rest of my Countrymen, to kindle your Virtue and animate your First Appearance.

I have ſeen your Father who was th
Friend and Companion of my Youth ;
have ſeen him at the Head of his Freehol
ders amiable in his Perſon, ſincere in hi
Friendſhip, firm in his Principles, belove
and almoſt adored by his Country, nobl
aſſerting in the Midſt of Ten Thouſan
Acclamations, this very Cauſe which nov
calls ſo loudly for Help. He was the De
light and Darling of all that knew him.
forſee you to be his Heir in that as in h
Virtue and Fortune. Tread in his Step
you will need no other Precept, or Exam
ple.

Remember me to my Friends, recom
mend me to the Continuance of your A
fection, and tell them that Old as I an
and wearied out with vainly wiſhing fo
better Times, I am yet ready to enter th
Liſts at their Call, to ſtand for Liberty an
Britain, or fall an honourable Victim
GOD, my Country, and my Friends.

Love me and believe me,

Dear Sir,

Your moſt Affectionate

Kinſman.